

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner's attention to the present application is noted with appreciation.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the piano, organ, and keyboard does not require disassembly. Further, please note that claim 1 recites that the sensor is insertable between keys and a fallboard. The language regarding key note on/off information that was previously in claim 1 is now in new claim 13. The language regarding the use of a protector that was previously in claim 1 is now in new claim 14.

In paragraphs 1-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) since Fig. 3B was not discussed in detail in the specification. The specification has been corrected to include a description of Fig. 3B. No replacement figure is necessary since an amendment in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) has been provided in this Amendment.

In the Office Action (between paragraphs 3 and 4), with the caption "Specification," the Examiner objected to the specification on page 2, line 5, noting that the number 5,567,902 is repeated. The specification has been amended to delete one of these.

In paragraphs 4-6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8, and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanderson (U.S. Patent No. 6,777,604) in view of Brull. The Examiner states that Sanderson discloses a system for a keyboard like instrument comprising an insertable sensor strip that is placed at the back of the keys and hidden from view. This is not correct. Sanderson ('604) discloses an apparatus being removably positionable atop a back portion of the keyboard of the instrument. The Sanderson ('604) apparatus is removable and positionable atop the back portion of the keyboard, but NOT insertable as recited in the present invention. Consequently, the apparatus described by Sanderson ('604) does not provide for an insertable sensor.

Further, using the Sanderson ('604) apparatus for insertion into the piano would require taking apart the piano or other keyboard. Applicant's present invention requires no disassembly.

Regarding Brull, Brull teaches the use of a sensor, but with an additional sweep protective device to protect the sensors from ambient light. Brull is now applicable to new claim 14, which depends from claim 1. Combining the sweep device of Brull with the sensing strip of Sanderson ('604) would not result in Applicant's invention; namely a sensor that does not require disassembly, and that is insertable between the keys and the fallboard.

In light of the above, it is believed that claims 1-6, 8, and 10-14 are allowable over Sanderson ('604) and Brull.

In paragraphs 7-8 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanderson (4,790,230) in view of Brull (4,818,132) as applied to 6, and further in view of Lee (6,472,589). Claim 7 depends from claim 6, which depends from claim 2, which depends from claim 1. In light of the arguments above, it is believed that claim 7 is allowable over the cited prior art.

In paragraphs 9-10 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanderson (4,790,230) in view of Brull (4,818,132) as applied to 6, and further in view of Fields (5,237,125). Claim 9 depends from claim 6, which depends from claim 2, which depends from claim 1. In light of the arguments above, it is believed that claim 9 is allowable over the cited prior art.

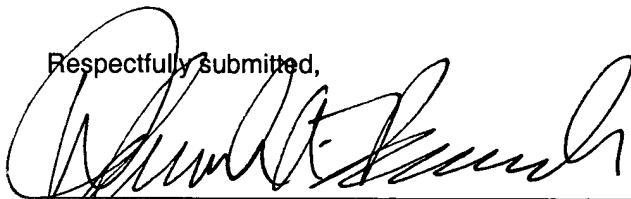
In paragraph 11, the Examiner cited Hayakawa (US 2001/0045151) and U.S. Patent No. to Yasutoshi et al. (6,037,534), but no arguments were cited.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all grounds of rejection and objection have been avoided and/or traversed. It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and same is respectfully requested.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner believes that prosecution of this application might be expedited by discussion of the issues, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the Attorney for Applicant at the telephone number listed below.

Authorization is given to charge payment of any additional fees required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Acct. 13-4213. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed for accounting purposes. Also being filed herewith is a Petition for Extension of Time to April 14, 2006, with the appropriate fee.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deborah A. Peacock', written over a horizontal line.

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